

## CHAPTER 10 SECTION 2.8A

### CERTIFIED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Issue Date: December 5, 1984

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#### I. ISSUE

Certified Marriage and Family Therapists

#### II. POLICY

A. Provider certification criteria follow:

1. The provider must meet education and training requirements as specified in [32 CFR 199.6](#).

2. The provider must be licensed or certified as a marriage and family therapist.

a. If licensure/certification is offered by the jurisdiction in which the provider is practicing, it is required in all cases, even if the jurisdiction offers it on an optional basis. Contractors must verify licensure/certification rules for jurisdictions not included below. The following jurisdictions provide licensure or certification for marriage and family therapists:

Alaska  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Nebraska

Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

or

b. In jurisdictions that do not offer specific licensure or certification for marriage and family therapists, the provider must be certified by, or be eligible for full clinical membership in, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the national association that sets standards for the profession. If a provider is eligible for full clinical membership in the AAMFT but is not a member, he/she must submit documentation obtained from the AAMFT of such eligibility. Associate members or student members of the AAMFT are not eligible for consideration as an authorized certified marriage and family therapists. Full clinical members of the AAMFT are listed in the AAMFT National Directory. Updated membership information can be obtained by calling the AAMFT at (202) 452-0109.

3. The provider must enter into a participation agreement with the TRICARE Management Activity.

a. The agreement requires the provider (1) to accept the determined allowable charge as payment in full, except for applicable deductibles and cost-shares, and (2) to hold beneficiaries harmless for noncovered care (i.e., the provider may not bill a beneficiary for noncovered care, and may not balance bill the beneficiary for amount above the allowable charge).

b. If the participation agreement between TRICARE and the certified marriage and family therapist is terminated for any reason, the certified marriage and family therapist, as of the effective date of termination, will no longer be recognized as an authorized provider. Subsequent to termination, the certified marriage and family therapist may only be reinstated as an authorized extramedical provider by entering into a new participation agreement as a certified marriage and family therapist.

4. The provider must agree that a patients' organic medical problems must receive appropriate concurrent management by a physician.

B. The utilization review system for claims that fall under the Managed Care Support Contract are subject to the mental health treatment utilization review system as specified by

contract. All other mental health claims are handled in accordance with **OPM Part Two, Chapter 17**.

C. The contractors must follow the guidelines in **OPM Part Two, Chapter 2, Section III.A.3., Chapter 10, Addendum 3, and Chapter 11, Section 11.9**, in administering the provisions of this issuance.

### III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

**32 CFR 199.6** specifies that a Certified Marriage and Family Therapist must have a recognized graduate professional education with a minimum of an earned master's degree in an appropriate behavioral science field, mental health discipline. This criterion is met if the licensing or certifying jurisdiction or organization accepts the master's degree for licensure or certification.

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